



MAYOR IVES' INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DECEMBER 1, 2014

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nation. Gila'kasla. Hay ch q' a' – a warm welcome to guests, friends and family members.

Congratulations to our newly elected council members – welcome back to incumbent councillors Ken Grant, Hugh MacKinnon, Barbara Price and Maureen Swift; welcome back to newly elected and former councillor Russ Arnott (who served on council 2008-11); and welcome to newly and never before elected councillor Marg Grant. Our special thanks go out to former councillors Patti Fletcher and Tom Grant, who each served on council for a total of 12 years (Tom from 1993-99 and 2008-14, and Patti from 2002-14). We honour their dedicated service to our community and, in particular, their role, expertise and wealth of experience while serving at the Regional District.

As I noted on election night, this is all about trust – what the voters and residents of Comox place in us to serve their interests – but it is also about respect, honour and commitment that each of us as elected officials must demonstrate to each other and to our constituents in carrying out roles as leaders in our community. Of particular note, the Province has provided local governments with another year of service in mandating 4 year terms starting with this inauguration ceremony – it is both an awesome opportunity and an incredible challenge as we move forward with our strategic planning and financial budget processes early in the New Year. We can plan for change, and for stability, as we tackle the always pressing needs of our community for fiscal sustainability, social well-being and economic prosperity. Respectful relationships at this council table, and at other board and committee tables, will go a long way toward accomplishing our goals and objectives. Pursuing partnerships with stakeholders, non-profit organizations and neighbouring jurisdictions will help to achieve successes and efficiencies. Honouring our ability to lead, and also to listen, will allow us to better engage the public on matters of community impact. Committing to these principles will make for productive use of our time and collective energies as we move forward.

Four years will go by in a hurry, so we must not rest on our laurels, but rather embrace these opportunities and challenges as we strive to make the Town of Comox an even better place to live, work and play.

Key focus areas for council will be, in no particular order of importance:

1. Downtown Vitalization
2. Marina Park Enhancement
3. Infrastructure Maintenance
4. Mack Laing/Baybrook House
5. St. Joseph's General Hospital

As we embark on our upcoming strategic plan and financial budget processes early in the New Year, it will be important to engage the public early and often on these and other issues that may arise over the next 4 years. We also must continue to work on implementing the stated goals and objectives of our Official Community Plan and Transportation Study, Regional Growth Strategy, and the Regional Sustainability Strategy. As well, our 'made in Comox' economic action plan adopted in Spring 2014 will be a key guiding document as we collaborate with our local Comox Business in Action members and the Comox Valley Economic Development Society to pursue incentive-based development in the Downtown Core, the Marina, at 19 Wing, and Comox Valley Airport-related lands. We must continue to show improvements in how we deal with investors and customers as they approach the Town – let's not only be 'open for business', but also show that we're ready to do business with new and existing commercial operators and establishments.

We have lots of work to do, as the weeks and months unfold, so let's roll up our sleeves, sharpen our pencils, and get down to business with council and staff working together as part of a 'Team Comox' – with support and meaningful input from our constituents, the best is truly yet to come!

PI/II